

Open Educational Resources:

Leveraging the opportunity of laptops for open education in Maine

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ABSTRACT

The Maine laptop initiative provides learners with the hardware and software needed to access OER (open educational resources). To meet learning standards teachers must identify and share these resources in an organized way. A group of educators from k-12 schools identified existing open educational resources that meet curricular goals. For OER to grow in Maine schools, professional development, sustainability, funding, copyright, and quality control need to be considered.

Problem

Although education is a universal human right (UNESCO, 2002), it is expensive.

Question

What open educational resources exist that provide opportunities for World Language teachers and learners in Maine?

Open educational resources: digitized materials offered freely and openly for educators, students and self-learners to use and reuse for teaching, learning and research (Hylan, 2007).

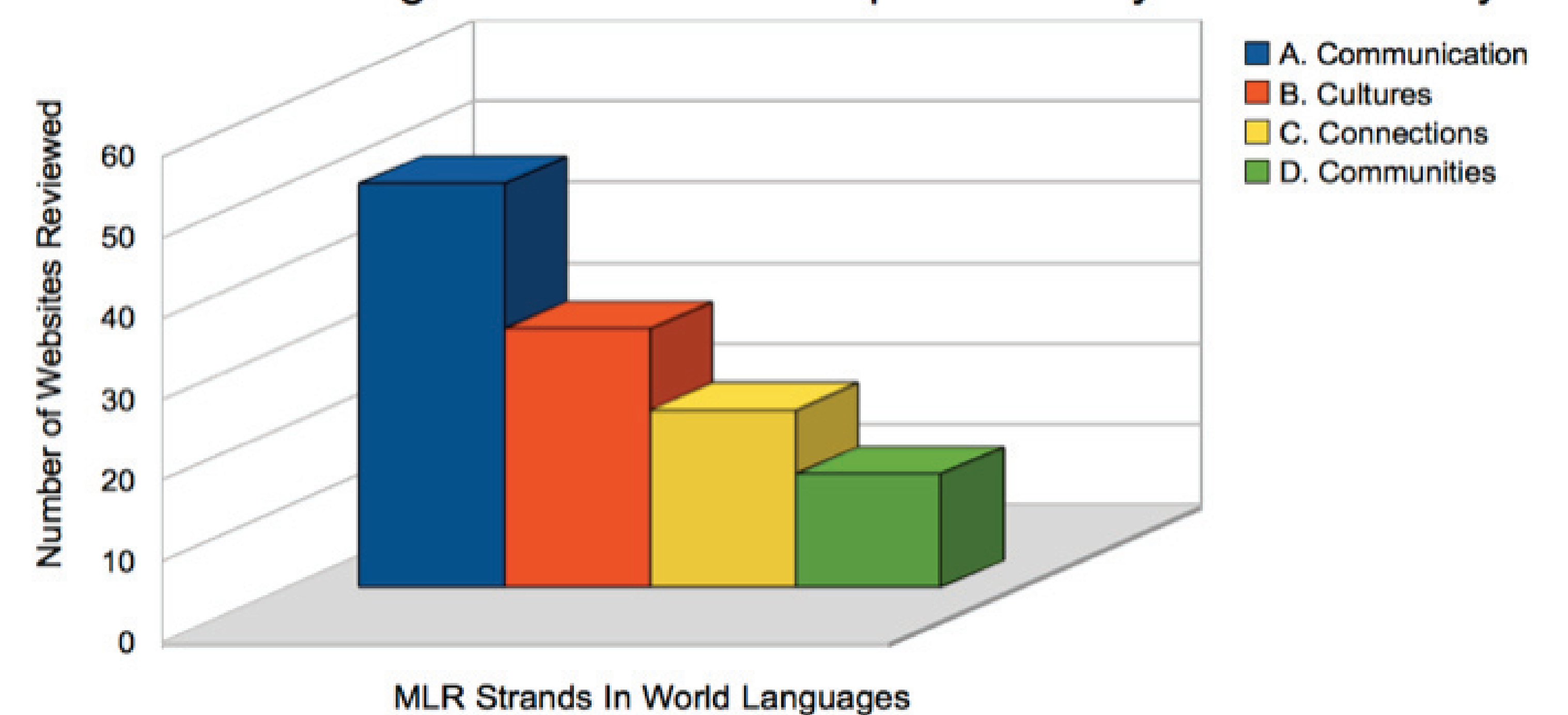
Results:

- 58 resources identified and curated
- "All languages" most represented by sites
- Communication most prevalent strand
 - Positive experience for teachers

Overall I think that what I got out of the project was a sense of just how much stuff there is out there that we can use with our students in and out of class. We don't have to go out and buy a lot of software to use in class because there is so much that we can use for free.

Cathy Swain, Washington Academy

Maine Learning Results Strands Represented by the OER Study



Communication: Students communicate in the target language.
Maine Parameters for Essential Instruction, 2007.

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